

# THE INDEPENDENT

VOL. XIII. NO. 673.

Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post-office at Elizabeth City, N. C., June 9, 1908

ELIZABETH CITY, N. C. FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1921

Published Every Friday by W. O. Saunders at 205 E. Fronting St. Elizabeth City, N. C.

\$1.50 A YEAR

## A STUDY IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN AMERICA

Representative Cooke And His Merchant Friends Upset Aldermanic Plans And Cooke Upsets Some Other Things Himself, All in a Week

Legislation without publicity and discussion has caused something of an upheaval in Elizabeth City this week. The first explosion came when Representative Cooke sent the Retail Merchants Association a bill which the Board of Aldermen had asked him to introduce, which bill was in the nature of an amendment to the city charter, designed to increase the city revenue by piling more license taxes on the merchants. The Alderman had prepared their bill without taking the merchants into their confidence. Mr. Cooke took the high ground that there should be no taxation without representation and he submitted the bill to the merchants back home to see what they had to say about it. The merchants met instantly and wired Mr. Cooke to kill that bill.

The next explosion came when news reached here Wednesday afternoon that Representative Cooke had sneaked a bill thru the General Assembly extending the city limits 300 feet on the north side of the present city limits, thereby taking in the manufacturing plants of the Farmers Ginning & Produce Co., the Eastern Cotton Oil Co., the Elizabeth City Hosiery Mill, the Elizabeth City Cotton Mill, the Standard Oil Co., the Southern Gas Improvement Co. and other property within the designated limit. This bill throws more than a million dollars worth of manufacturing property into the city limits, subjecting it to city taxes. But Mr. Cooke didn't write back home and ask those concerned what they thought about it. In fact, not even the Board of Aldermen knew that such a measure was contemplated. The Aldermen didn't ask him to extend the city limits. Nor had the people asked him to do it. The question uppermost in the minds of a lot of people is, who did put Cooke up to that business? Only two men in Elizabeth City seem to have any influence with Cooke. Those men are P. H. Williams and E. F. Ayldett. It has been suggested that Mr. Cooke may have confided his extension scheme to those gentlemen.

Owners of industries taken into the city under the sneak bill feel that somebody has put something over on them. It is suggested that Mr. Ayldett and Mr. Williams have recently disposed of all their holdings in the extension area and would not now be averse to seeing that property taxed. It is no longer a secret that Mr. Williams trapped himself into a deal by which he was forced to reluctantly sell his hosiery mill stock to C. H. Robinson, thereby sacrificing his interest in a business that was normally paying better than a 50 per cent. dividend. More recently Mr. Williams and Mr. Ayldett sold their interest in the Knobs Creek Improvement Co. The property consists of about 20 acres. It was bought by the Love Bros. who planned to locate a packing house on the property. They thought they were safely out of the corporation limits. They say now that they will not carry out their plans, if they are to pay city taxes.

The extension of the city limits puts on the tax books the two most highly assessed industries in the county. The Elizabeth City Hosiery Mill is assessed at \$480,000. The Elizabeth City Cotton Mill is assessed at \$411,000. There's nearly a million dollars. The total valuation of all property in the city is only \$11,300,000. This, on its face, means a considerable increase in revenue for the city. But this is on its face. The city must give the extension both police and fire protection and electric lights. It will cost the city a pretty penny to do that. And if the city doesn't come across with police and fire protection, the city may find itself at some time involved in costly litigation. Failure of the city to provide adequate fire protection for the hosiery and cotton mills for instance might mean a suit for damages against the city if those mills burned.

Again, the mill owners do not believe that they should be forced into the city and onto the city tax books, because they feel that a town should encourage its industries. They point out that many towns and cities are not only waiving taxes, but providing free sites for manufacturers.

But to get back to the Charter Amendment increasing license taxes. The Merchants went up in the air. There was a joint meeting of the Merchants Association and the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night. The joint meeting voted unanimously and vociferously for Mr. Cooke to kill that bill.

Next day a committee of merchants was before the Aldermen praying for more fire apparatus for the protection of business property. The merchants want the town to buy an aerial fire

## A FARMER OF VOICES IS THIS MAN HUFTY



FRANK R. HUFTY

MR. HUFTY is director of the Elizabeth City Choral Society. He also directs the choir of Christ Church at its morning service, leads the First Methodist Sunday School singers and at night goes over to City Road M. E. Church and leads that choir. When he isn't giving private vocal lessons or driving the Choral Society on week days and week nights, he is hustling around with surveying instruments or bending over a draughtsman's board in his office; for he is a Civil Engineer as well as a singer. He has undertaken the formidable job of organizing the embryonic musical talent of Elizabeth City and training it to sing in concert or any other how. He aims to develop here a choral society of 150 voices and he hasn't rounded up that number yet. He is especially short of male voices and wants more men to interest themselves in the vocal art. All he demands of a fellow to start with is a moderate ability to carry a tune in a hamper basket. Hufty will do the rest. Photo by W. H. Zoeller.

## MORRISSETTE'S BRIDGE BILL PASSES HOUSE AND SENATE

The Morrisette bill providing for the purchase or construction of a bridge across Pasquotank river at or near Elizabeth City, by the county of Camden passed both Houses of the General Assembly this week. Elizabeth City and Pasquotank county are thereby placed in the humiliating position of seeing a less wealthy sister county undertake a public enterprise effecting this city and county in the cost of which this city and county should have shared. Elizabeth City will be further humiliated by having to pay tolls of Camden county for using Camden's bridge. There is a ray of hope in the prospect of the State Highway Commission taking over the proposed bridge as a part of the state highway system. It is believed that will eventually be done.

truck, something that will throw a stream of water straight into the upper floors of a four-story building. And the Aldermen just told the merchants they could go to; telling them in effect: "You merchants seem to think you are running this town and you elect to say that you won't pay certain taxes; go buy your own fire-fighting apparatus; if you don't want to give us the revenue with which to run this town, then go on and run it yourself." This is municipal politics in America with a vengeance. Right then the merchants were willing to get together with the Aldermen and consider the matter of increasing license taxes. The Aldermen appointed a committee of two, J. B. Leigh and P. C. Cahoon; the Merchants appointed a committee of two, W. H. Weatherly and F. M. Grice; the Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee of two, M. P. Gallop and M. G. Morrisette. They were to have met jointly at the town hall Wednesday night. The committeemen of the Merchants Association and the Chamber of Commerce were there. But the committee of Aldermen didn't show up. There was no meeting. Mr. Cooke has his orders. Those orders stand. Mr. Cooke is a store-keeper himself and the merchants are confident he will do as they have told him to do, kill that bill.

One effect of all of this legislation has been to aggravate a lot of factional differences in the town and to widen many breaches. Another and more wholesome effect may be a new and livelier interest upon the part of the people in future candidates for the Legislature. A lot of folk seem to remember now that Pasquotank once had a Representative in the General Assembly who kept the people informed as to what was going on in Raleigh, even to the extent of publishing the full text of the bills he introduced. The county has no such representation in the Hon. C. A. Cooke. The public doesn't know what he is doing and can't guess what he may do next, if he isn't watched.

## CITY MANAGER QUILTS JUNE 1ST.

Can't Get Promised Salary Increase, Mr. Commander Is Done

Elizabeth City is about to lose a City Manager. City Manager J. C. Commander has served notice that he will quit the first of June. He refuses to hold down the job of City Manager, do the work of a Street Commissioner and take all the cussing that goes with both jobs for a paltry \$2,400 a year. That is all the office pays now.

When Mr. Commander came down here from Virginia last February to take the office of City Manager the Board of Aldermen gave him to understand that provision would be made for an increase in the salary of the office. The salary was originally fixed at \$2,400 a year by a legislative act creating the office. It was proposed to amend the act to increase the salary to \$3,600 a year. A bill was drafted to that effect and the bill was to have been passed at the special session of the General Assembly last August. But the bill was never sent to the Representative. It got pigeonholed.

The bill was sent to Representative Cooke to be introduced in the present session of the General Assembly, but word comes back that Mr. Cooke thinks a City Manager isn't worth more than \$2,400 a year and that he will refuse to introduce the bill. "I'm done," declares the City Commander. "I'm damned if I ain't done; I'm going back to Virginia. I can make more money on my farm in Norfolk county and when there's any 'cussin' to be done I can do it all myself."

Where the City Fathers will look for another City Manager is a problem that will not be easily solved. Competent men capable of conducting the affairs of a big corporation are not to be easily picked up at \$2,400 a year.

## WILD GOOSE WIZARD STUMPED THIS TIME

Rosser Midgett Puzzled Two Years Over Strange Message on Fowl

Dare County folks who have wondered for many months at the worried look on the face of Rosser Midgett, the famous "wild goose wizard" of Manteo, will now be able to understand why Rosser's raven locks and beard have rapidly grown so grey. The secret leaked out the other day; he was unable to keep it any longer.

At the close of a windy day in November 1918, Rosser was making ready to leave his blind, in Roanoke sound. Hunting had been poor that day and he was going ashore early in anticipation of a big dance for which he was slated that night. As he stepped into his skiff preparatory to picking up his decoys, he heard the honks of many geese, far away to the Northward. Not even the biggest dance of the season could keep him away when geese were near, so he stepped back in his blind and quietly waited. The cries of Rosser's decoys easily lured the new flock toward his blind, and tired from the long flight from the guns of the Currituck hunters, it was glad to alight with the deceptive renegades of its own tribe. Before it was safely afloat, its fear was renewed by Rosser's automatic and the feathery flock resumed its southward flight, fewer in number by two of its finest fowls.

Nothing was coming on, and expecting nothing more that day in the way of game, Rosser hastily gathered his kill. One of the birds as a young one, and bore on its leg an aluminum band bearing the scriptural injunction: "No good will be withheld from them that walk uprightly." (Ps. 84:11) On the other side were the words: "Write Box 48, Kingsville, Ontario," and the date "17".

Now Rosser has never failed to learn anything about wild geese; before. He can distinguish the voice, even of any member of his flock of 40 decoys. He speaks the wild goose language, so some say, and makes wild geese for a study, taking pride in whatever he may learn about the birds. It is his trade, profession, vocation, avocation, pastime, hobby and pursuit. But this thing has floored him, so to speak.

For two years he has been fretting over his inability to learn who placed the band on the goose's leg. Not even the postmaster of Kingsville could tell him who rented the box and Rosser fears was proclaimed the perpetrator of the act that has caused him so much trouble. In his efforts to locate the party, he has written every important institution in Canada from the Royal Northwest Mounted Police to the Hudson Bay Fur Co. and the Ottawa Board of Trade. It is the first thing he has ever failed to learn about wild geese and doesn't propose to stay stumped if it takes the rest of his life to solve the problem.

## A NEW BAKERY

Elizabeth City is to have a new bakery equipped along modern lines. It will be known as the Star Bakery and will be operated by W. W. Benbury in Koch's old stand on So. Road St. The oven and other baking equipment has been supplied thru the Southern Gas Improvement Co. and is being installed.

## BACK TO CIVILIAN LIFE



A. RAYMOND MOORE

MR. MOORE was living peacefully in Elizabeth City when the United States entered the World War. At the first call for men he made a break for the Marine Corps and got in up to his neck for a three year enlistment. He got out this week and has returned to Elizabeth City. He goes to work with THE INDEPENDENT Monday morning, Feb. 28. He was one of the fastest Linotype operators in the southeast when he enlisted three years ago. Before returning to Elizabeth City he put in much spare-time work with the Washington (D. C.) Times and has regained his old familiarity with the Linotype. Mr. Moore succeeds F. Everett Chory as Linotype compositor in THE INDEPENDENT shop. Mr. Chory leaves the machine to take charge of the job printing department of THE INDEPENDENT. Photo by W. H. Zoeller.

## FAIR ASSOCIATION BUSY WITH 1921 FAIR PLANS

Secretary Goodwin in Raleigh This Week in Conference With Other Eastern Secretaries

The Albemarle Agricultural Association is lining things up for the annual district fair to be held at Elizabeth City this fall. W. Ben Goodwin, executive secretary of the fair association is in Raleigh this week in conference with the secretaries of other eastern fair associations. At this conference it is hoped to fix the dates of various eastern North Carolina fairs and Elizabeth City is sparing for an early October date, the first week in October being considered the best date for an Elizabeth City Fair. The addition of a live stock exhibit building and machinery hall and other improvements on the grounds, and with money in the treasury this year for the first time since its organization, the Fair Association expects to stage a bigger and better fair this fall.

## IS MANTEO A HOODOO PORT FOR CUBAN MAIL PLANES

For the second time this winter a Cuban Mail Plane has met with mishap in Manteo Bay. The Ponce de Leon, a giant passenger and mail carrying plane of the Aeromarine West Indies Airways, stopped at Manteo Saturday to take on mail. The plane left New York at eight o'clock and reached Manteo at 12:30. After filling its tanks with oil, it prepared its flight and while endeavoring to break anchor, took a sudden turn to the right and cut its starboard wing on the flying jib stay of a schooner. The damage was repaired and it was deemed expedient to be towed out behind a fishing boat.

The Ponce de Leon is the sixth and last plane of the West Indies mail fleet to go south this winter. The Balboa which stopped at Manteo right after Christmas, caught fire and was detained for several weeks.

## FARMER-HUNTER

Thos. Farmer, Jr., of Norfolk, Va. and Miss Hortense Hunter, of Hertford, were married here Wednesday afternoon at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. L. N. Thomas. Rev. R. K. Williams was the officiating minister. Mr. Farmer is a son of Thos. Farmer, of Hertford. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hunter, of Hertford. Mr. and Mrs. Farmer will be at home in Norfolk after their honeymoon.

## AT RIVERSIDE

There will be a Box Supper at Riverside schoolhouse Friday evening, Mar. 4. The public is cordially invited.

## Hathaway Says

If you wear glasses, have your eyes and glasses both examined from time to time, and go to the place where you can afford to pay a reasonable price for real professional work. Remember your eyes are your bread-winners. Take care of them.

You have your teeth examined twice a year. Why not your eyes? They are more important.

Dr. J. D. Hathaway  
Optometrist  
Bradford Bldg.  
Phone 999

## STOCK LAW IS HERE AT LAST

Legislature Passes State Wide Measure And Law Is Effective at Once

After voting a fifty million dollar road bill, the North Carolina General Assembly last week voted a statewide stock law. Stock law had to come. A state that purposes to build a 300 million dollar state highway system and makes a 50 million dollar start in that direction isn't going to tolerate scrub heifers, runt pigs, smelly goats and burr spangled sheep roaming at large over the landscape, and obstructing the passage of every blithesome Ford. A state riding in automobiles can't tolerate miscellaneous live stock on its highways. A state whose people expects to own and keep up automobiles and provide roads for them must produce more revenue from thorough live stock. The production of thorough live stock and the complete eradication of the cattle tick is possible only in a state which compels its people to feed their stock.

And that is what Stock Law effectually does—makes people take care of their stock. The favorite method of live stock raising in eastern North Carolina has been to let the stock forage for itself. Pigs and heifers are no expense to the poorer and improvident classes of farmers. The animal that should make a good family cow is branded with some mark by which the owner can identify her and turned loose to graze for herself on anybody's land that isn't fenced in. The result is millions of dollars worth of fencing to keep other people's cattle and hogs off one's farm, and very little fencing to keep up and produce better cattle and hogs. The branded heifer roams over the countryside for months at a time, feeding where she can, starving when she can't find feed; gathering ticks as she goes, mating with the first scrub bull that strikes her fancy or takes a fancy to her; some spring day the owner finds her sucking a calf; he kills the calf and takes it to market. It cost him nothing to produce and he loses little sleep over the price he gets for it. That's the way we have been raising much live stock in eastern North Carolina. Here and there the more educated farming class has found that the better way is better pay. But those who try to raise improved stock in a free range country are handicapped in many ways. The unrestrained free range animals will mix with and demoralize the better breeds spite of the vigilance of the owner of the improved stock.

The fight for a statewide stock law has been waged in North Carolina for 40 years, each biennial session of the General Assembly having considered it in that time. Many believed that the politicians in the present General Assembly would be afraid to incur the wrath of the proletariat by passing it. But legislators who are paid \$4,000 per diem in this costly age are not so much concerned about re-election, failure of re-election has no terrors for them. And so they took the bull by the horns and enacted a Stock Law. It is effective at once.

## KENNEKEET FOLK TO DIP CATTLE JUST THE SAME

Considerable dissatisfaction is being expressed in certain sections of Dare County over the defeat of the tick eradication measure. People on the Kennekeet strip from Rodanthe to Hatteras were heartily in favor of dipping and had built vats at their own expense. Those people have suffered much from the roads of the tick, losing cattle by the hundreds. Being ready for some sort of relief they were prompt to erect vats at every precinct. The defeat of the measure has been a decided setback to their plans, but they are going to look after it without the help of authorities and propose to dip the cattle anyway.

## NORTH CAROLINA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY

- The largest hosiery mills in the world are in North Carolina—Durham Hosiery Mills, Durham.
- The largest towel mills in the world are in North Carolina—Cannon Manufacturing Company, Kannapolis.
- The largest denim mills in the country are in North Carolina—Proximity Manufacturing Company, Greensboro.
- The largest damask mills in the country are in North Carolina—Rosemary Manufacturing Company, Roanoke Rapids.
- The greatest underwear factory in the country is in North Carolina—Hanes Knitting Company, Winston-Salem.
- Gastonia is the center of the fine combed yarn industry of the South.
- North Carolina embraces more mills that dye and finish their own product than any other Southern State.
- North Carolina leads the entire South in respect to the knitting industry.
- There are 513 textile mills in North Carolina, as compared with 180 in South Carolina and 173 in Georgia.
- North Carolina mills embrace 5,321,450 spindles, as compared with 5,038,988 in South Carolina and 2,706,022 in Georgia.

## THE HISTORY OF THAT ORIGINAL KU KLUX KLAN

They Used to Call Themselves Ghouls, They Now Call Themselves Knights and Imperialism Is a Fetish of The Present Ruler of The "Invisible Empire"

By W. O. SAUNDERS

## A THIRTEEN YEAR OLD PRIZE BISCUIT MAKER



MISS EVELYN BUNDY

LITTLE Miss Bundy took first prize in the biscuit making contest participated in by scores of bright Pasquotank girls, held at the Y. M. C. A. in this city last Saturday under the direction of Miss Marie Albertson, Home Demonstration Agent. Evelyn is the thirteen year old daughter of Mrs. and Mr. Oscar Bundy, of Okisko, and is a pupil in Perry's School at that place. The second prize in the contest was taken by Miss Mervine Price, R. F. D. 1. In addition to these two main prizes for the county at large, other prizes were awarded to the best biscuit makers from each public school represented and these prizes were awarded as follows: Fork School, Misses Ruth and Margaret Harrell; Brothers' School, Misses Hattie and Hazel Price; Newbegun School, Miss Bessie Mae Stanley; Small's School, Miss Beulah Lowe; Salem School, Miss Margaret Lowry; Dry Ridge, Misses Lizzie Rodger and Annie Marie Jackson; Simon's Creek, Miss Ada White; Mt. Hermon, Misses Rosie Whitehead and Melvin Godwin; Bank's School, Miss Nora Reid; Riversides, Misses Nannie Harrell and Gracie Brock. Elizabeth City prize-winners were Miss Margaret Sawyer and Mrs. Wilma White. Club Girl winners out of school were Miss Minnie Wood and Mrs. Eula Wood Daniels. Some biscuits offered in the competition did not carry the name of the contestant or the school, and could not therefore receive mention. Photo by W. H. Zoeller.

## WILL ATTACK MORMONS FROM LOCAL PULPITS

Mrs. Lula Loveland Shepard Will Come to Elizabeth City in March

The National Reform Association, of Pittsburgh, Pa., has invited the Mormon Elders to Elizabeth City and will send their biggest speaker, Mrs. Lula Loveland Shepard to Elizabeth City for a series of lectures on Mormonism, beginning March 6. Mrs. Shepard is represented as "The Silver Toned Orator of the Rockies." She will speak here under the auspices of the local Ministerial Union. Her subjects are "The Mormon Menace" and "The Mormon Temple Secrets." The latter lecture is given exclusively to women. She will deliver three lectures in this city, from the pulpits of as many churches.

## BUILDING & LOAN ASSN. MEN WILL MEET HERE

Notable Convention of Forward Looking Citizens From Many Cities Coming in June

Elizabeth City will entertain a notable convention here some time in June in the annual meeting of the North Carolina League of Building & Loan Associations. The progressive Building & Loan Associations of the more progressive and forwarding looking towns and cities of the state are embraced in the league. Raleigh, Wilmington, Greensboro, Asheville, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, High Point and other cities will be represented at the convention here. Seventy five to 100 delegates are expected and the convention will be in session for several days. Committees from the Chamber of Commerce and the Retail Merchants Association will shortly begin to plan for the entertainment of the visitors.

The date of the convention will be fixed by the League's executive committee this week. The convention was secured for this city by W. Ben Goodwin, secretary of the Albemarle Building & Loan Association.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan are undertaking to organize a branch of their mystical order in Elizabeth City and probably in other towns and communities in this part of the state. They have no canvasser at work, so far as can be learned, securing their membership by correspondence. Some one spots likely members for them and to these prospective members a membership is tendered by mail. The prospective member is advised that he must "discuss this with no one. If you wish to learn more, address Ti-Bo-Tim." The mysterious Ti-Bo-Tim's address is given as post-office box No. 312, Wilson, N. C. But the invitations and other publicity matter are mailed from Norfolk, Va.

The prospective member is advised that he has been awarded a membership because his friends state that he believes in the tenets of the Christian religion, white supremacy, protection of our pure womanhood, just laws and liberty, closer relationship of pure Americanism, the sovereignty of state rights, preventing the causes of mob violence and destruction of property by lawless elements, preventing unwarranted strikes by foreign labor agitators, law and order. All of these fine things are what the individual is said to believe in and not necessarily what the Klan believes in.

The prospective member is assured that membership in the Klan is awarded him for services he has rendered society and that the membership can not be bought. But just before he signs up he is solemnly told that he must "contribute \$10 toward its propagation."

It may be in order to find out what the Klan stands for. I have before me a pamphlet issued from the "palace" of the Imperial Wizard of the Klan. This pamphlet quotes the following declaration as from the constitution of the order, officially adopted Sept. 20, 1916:

"We do solemnly declare to all mankind that the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, incorporated, is the original, genuine Ku Klux Klan organized in the year 1865, and active during the reconstruction period of American history. \* \* \* We do further declare that our original Prescript used as the governing law of the Ku Klux Klan, during the period of its former activities, and all official titles, mannerisms, usages and things therein prescribed have not been abandoned by us; but to the contrary all of such things with designs of paraphernalia, regalia, flags, banners, emblems, symbols or other insignia and things prescribed or previously used by us under the authority of the Ku Klux Klan are held sacred by us as a precious heritage."

## The Original Klan

It being officially declared by the constitution of the order that this is the original and genuine Ku Klux Klan organized in the year 1865 we have only to go to history to get an idea of what is about to be imposed upon us. History unqualifiedly discounts the original Ku Klux Klan. Woodrow Wilson, himself a Southerner and an authority respected by the South, tells the story of the original Ku Klux Klan in his "History of The American." I quote at length from Vol. 5 of this history. Woodrow Wilson, the historian says:

"In May, 1866, a little group of young men in the Tennessee village of Pulaski, finding time hang heavy on their hands after the excitement of the field, so lately abandoned, formed a secret club for the mere pleasure of association, for private amusement,—for anything that might promise to break the monotony of the too quiet place, as their wits might work upon the matter, and one of their number suggested that they call themselves the KUKLOS, the Circle. Secrecy and mystery were at the heart of the pranks they planned: secrecy with regard to the membership of their Circle, secrecy with regard to the place and the objects of its meetings; and the mystery of disguise and of silent parade when the comrades rode abroad at night when the moon was up; a white mask, a tall cardboard hat, the figures of man and horse sheeted like a ghost, and the horses' feet muffled to move without sound of their approach. It was the delightful discovery of the thrill of awesome fear, the awful looking for of calamity that swept through the country-sides as they moved from place to place upon their silent visitations, coming no man could say whence, going upon no man knew what errand, that put thought of mischief into the minds of the frolicking comrades. It threw the negroes into a very ecstasy of panic to see these sheeted 'Ku Klux' move near

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